

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONFIDENCE
BASED INCREMENTAL ACCESS AUTHENTICATION**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for providing continuous
5 confidence-based authentication. The present invention may
be implemented in an incremental access authentication
system for controlling access to secured data having various
levels of security. During the course of a conversational
session between user and machine, a confidence-based
10 authentication system according to the present invention
will periodically analyze the input speech of a user
interacting with the system to compute a "confidence
measure" for the validity of an original identity claim *i*
provided by the user at the commencement of the dialog
15 session. The "confidence measure" computation process
according to the present invention is seamlessly integrated
into the incremental access authentication system so that
the system can tailor its interaction with the user based on
its confidence in the original identity claim.